

Application No.: 10/751,706

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the nonfinal office action dated January 14, 2008 (the Office Action).

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10, 13, 22, 26, and 31 have been withdrawn and are cancelled herein for future divisional prosecutions. Claims 34, 36, 38, 39, 45, 42, 49, 56, 57, 61, and 64-67 have been examined and rejected.

Claims 34, 36, 38-39, 41-42, 49, 56-57, 61, and 64-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶1 for lack of enablement on the grounds that the specification enables anionic polysaccharides but not cationic polysaccharides. Claim 34 has been amended to recite an anionic polysaccharide for the sake of internal consistency with the claim, which is directed to the polysaccharide's combination with a quaternary ammonium cation. This amendment is not narrowing and makes this rejection moot.

Claims 34 (inadvertently omitted in Office Action?), 36, 38-39, 41, 42, 49, 56-57, 61, 64-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶1 for lack of enablement on the grounds that ionic bonding of a quaternary ammonium compound to the polysaccharide is enabled but not any kind of association is enabled. Independent claim 34 has been amended to specify that the association is ionic. The quaternary ammonium-polysaccharide salt complex claimed in the independent claim 34 is a stable salt complex. Once formed, it is insoluble in water. It is customary in these arts to refer to stable salts that are insoluble in water as "complexes". The "complex", by definition, involved ionic bonding, such that this claim is not narrowing.

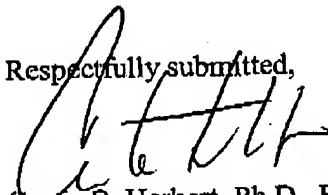
An allowance or nonfinal action is requested on the grounds that these amendments do not require a new search since independent claim 34 implicitly claimed both amendments ("anionic" and "ionic").

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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